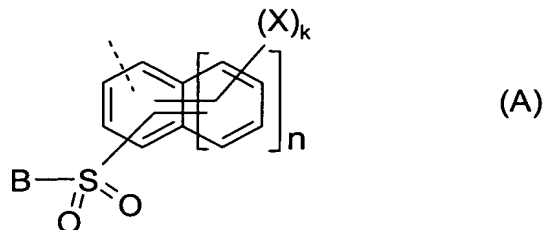


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for dyeing leather with at least one dye F which has at least one alkaline-activable group of the formula A[[]];



where

---- denotes the bond to the dye molecule;

X is an electron-attracting radical[[]];

k is 1, 2 or 3[[]];

n is 0 or 1; and

B is a CH=CH₂ group or a CH₂-CH₂-Q group, where Q is an alkaline-detachable group,

which comprises treating the leather with an aqueous float comprising at least one dye F at a pH of 7.5 to 11.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process according to claim 1, wherein at least one radical X in the formula A is an SO₃H group.

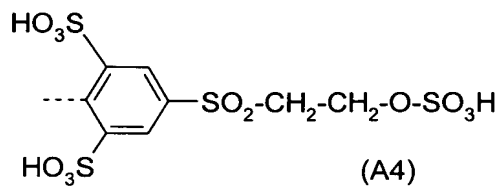
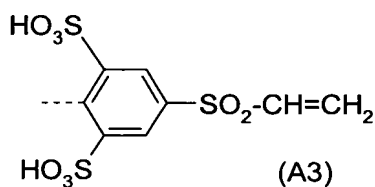
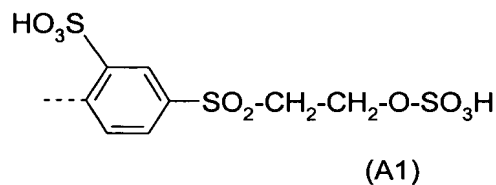
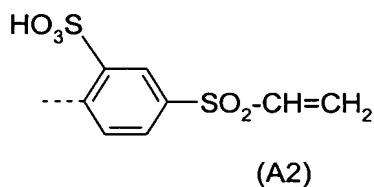
Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein B in the formula A is CH=CH₂, a CH₂-CH₂-O-SO₃H group or a CH₂-CH₂-O-C(O)CH₃ group.

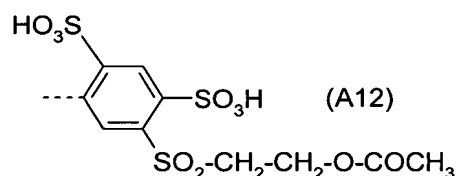
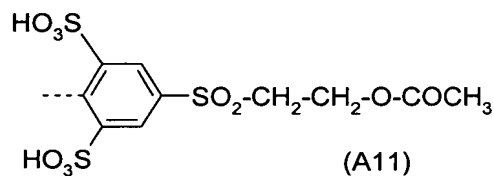
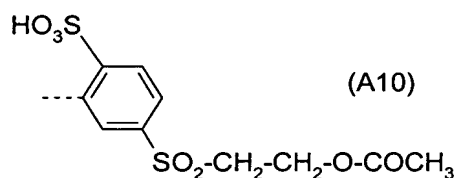
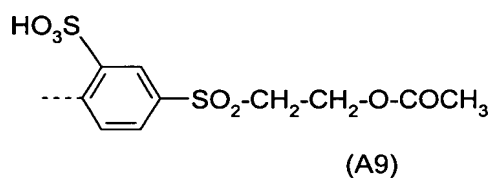
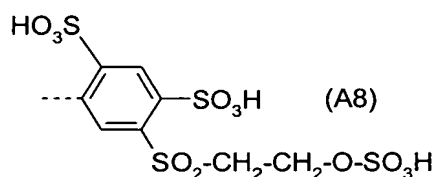
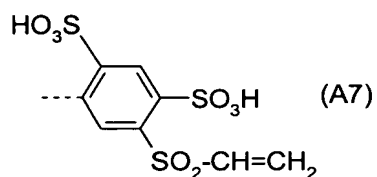
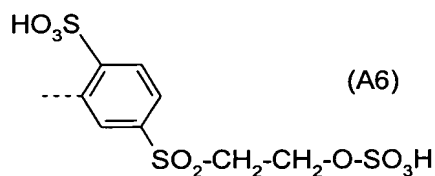
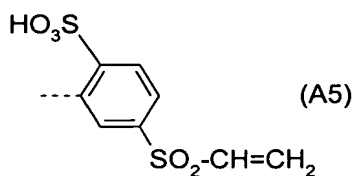
Claim 4 (Currently Amended): $[[A]]$ The process according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the group A is attached to the dye molecule via an -NH- or -N=N- group.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): $[[A]]$ The process according to claim 4, wherein the dye F is selected from dyes of the phthalocyanine series, anthraquinone dyes, azo dyes, formazan dyes, dioxazine dyes, actidine dyes, xanthene dyes, polymethine dyes, stilbene dyes, sulfur dyes and triarylmethane dyes.

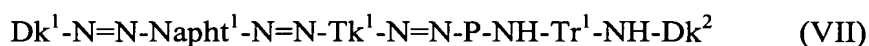
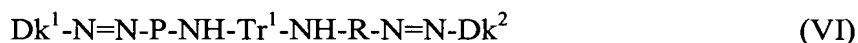
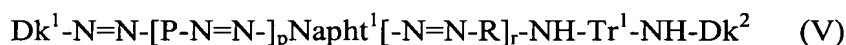
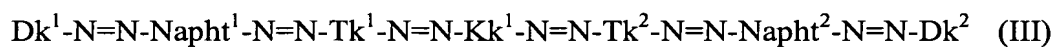
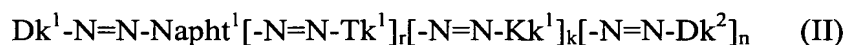
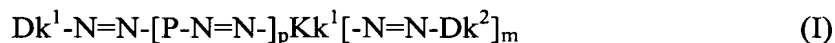
Claim 6 (Currently Amended): $[[A]]$ The process according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein $n = 0$.

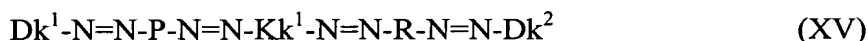
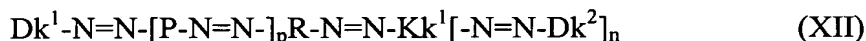
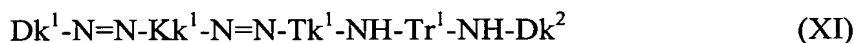
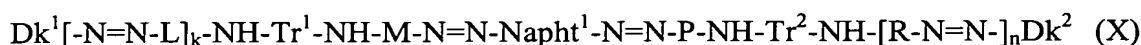
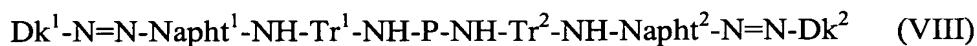
Claim 7 (Currently Amended): $[[A]]$ The process according to claim 6, wherein the radical A is selected from the following radicals A1 to A12:





Claim 8 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process according to ~~any preceding claim~~
claim 1, wherein the dye F is selected from the dyes of the general formulae I to XV:





where

k, n, p and r are independently 0 or 1 subject to the condition that k+n+r in the formula II is = 1, 2 or 3;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

Dk^1 , Dk^2 independently represent a radical derived from an aromatic amine or denotes a group of the formula A subject to the condition that in each of the formulae I - XII and XV at least one of Dk^1 and Dk^2 represents a radical of the formula A;

Kk^1 , Kk^2 independently represent a mono-, di- or trivalent aromatic radical which derives from benzene, naphthalene, pyrazole, quinoline, diphenylamine, diphenylmethane, pyrimidine, pyridine or diphenyl ether and which may optionally comprise one or more of the following radicals as substituents: SO_3H , COOH , CN , CONH_2 , OH , NH_2 , NO_2 , halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-hydroxyalkyl}$, $\text{carboxy-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxy}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylamino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-dialkylamino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-dialkylaminocarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonylamino}$, $\text{N-(C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonyl)amino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonyloxy}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonylamino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-dialkylaminocarbonylamino}$, $\text{phenylaminocarbonyloxy}$, $\text{phenylaminocarbonylamino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxycarbonylamino}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-hydroxy-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylamino}$, $\text{carboxy-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylamino}$,

phenylcarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, a radical of the formula SO₂NR⁵⁶R⁵⁷, where R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, formyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkyloxycarbonyl, NH₂-CO or C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino, di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by one or two substituents selected from C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or halogen, or 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 of the following radicals: OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally comprise one or two of the following radicals: OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and/or C₁-C₄-alkoxy;

Kk³ is a monovalent radical which derives from benzene, pyrimidine, pyridine or naphthalene and which optionally comprises 1 or 2 hydroxysulfonyl groups and optionally 1, 2 or 3 further substituents selected from SO₃H, COOH, CN, CONH₂, OH, NH₂, NO₂, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, a radical of the formula SO₂NR⁵⁶R⁵⁷, where R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, formyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkyloxycarbonyl, NH₂-CO or C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino, di-C₁-C₄-

alkylaminosulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by one or two substituents selected from C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or halogen, or 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 of the following radicals: OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally comprise one or two of the following radicals: OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and/or C₁-C₄-alkoxy;

Tk¹, Tk² independently represent a divalent aromatic radical which derives from benzene, diphenylamine, biphenyl, diphenylmethane, 2-phenylbenzimidazole, phenylsulfonylbenzene, phenylaminosulfonylbenzene, stilbene or phenylaminocarbonylbenzene which may each optionally comprise one or more of the following radicals as substituents: SO₃H, COOH, OH, NH₂, NO₂, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl;

L, M, P and R independently represent a divalent aromatic radical which derives from benzene or naphthalene which may each optionally comprise one or more, for example 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, of the following radicals as substituents: SO₃H, COOH, CN, CONH₂, OH, NH₂, NO₂, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, carboxy-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, a radical of the formula SO₂NR⁵⁶R⁵⁷, where R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, formyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, NH₂-CO or C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonylamino, di-C₁-C₄-

Preliminary Amendment

alkylaminosulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by one or two substituents selected from C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or halogen, or 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 of the following radicals: OH, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally comprise one or two of the following radicals: OH, SO₃H, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and/or C₁-C₄-alkoxy;

Napht¹, Napht² independently represent a divalent radical which derives from naphthalene and which comprises 1 or 2 hydroxysulfonyl groups and may optionally comprise 1, 2 or 3 further substituents selected from OH, NH₂, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino, 4-methylphenylsulfonylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, phenylaminosulfonyl, 4-methylphenylaminosulfonyl and NHC(O)R^x radicals, where R^x hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, maleyl or phenyl;

Pyr represents pyrazole-1,4-diyl which attaches through the nitrogen atom to the A group and optionally comprises one or 2 substituents selected from halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, hydroxyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxy;

Tr¹, Tr² independently represent a 1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diyl radical which optionally further comprises a halogen atom, a methyl group or a methoxy group as substituent, and the metal complexes of these dyes.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process according to any preceding claim~~
claim 1, wherein initially the leather is treated with the aqueous float comprising at least one dye F at a pH in the range from 3 to 6.5 and then a pH of at least 7.5 is set in the float.

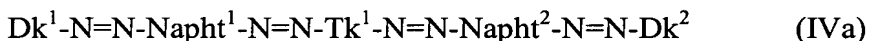
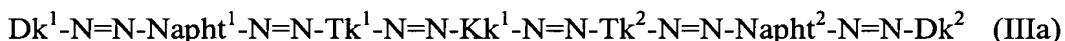
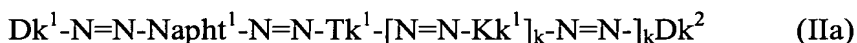
Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process according to any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the dyeing is carried out as a one-stage process.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process according to any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the dyeing is carried out before retanning.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process according to any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the dyeing is effected at temperatures in the range from 10 to 60°C.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Dyes F of the general formulae IIa, IIIa or IVa:



where Dk^1 , Dk^2 , Napht^1 , Napht^2 and Kk^1 are each as defined above, k is 0 or 1 and where Tk^1 and Tk^2 independently represent a divalent radical which derives from biphenyl, diphenylmethane, 2-phenylbenzimidazole, phenylsulfonylbenzene, phenylaminosulfonylbenzene, diphenylamine, stilbene or phenylaminocarbonylbenzene and may optionally comprise one or more of the following radicals as substituents: SO_3H , COOH , OH , NH_2 , NO_2 , halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, although Tk^1 in formula IIa does not represent a diphenylamine-derived radical when k is = 0 and either or both of the radicals Dk^1 and Dk^2 represent a radical of the formula A as defined in claim 1.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Dyes F of the general formula IIb:

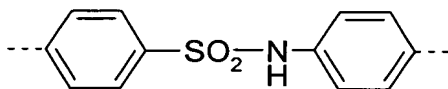


where A, Dk², Napht¹ and Kk¹ are each as defined above[[,]];

n is 0 or 1; and

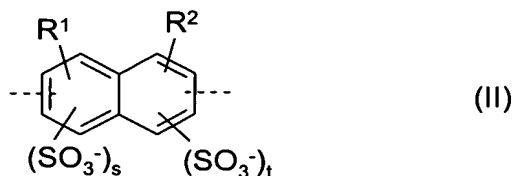
where Tk¹ represents a divalent radical which derives from biphenyl, diphenylmethane, 2-phenylbenzimidazole, phenylsulfonylbenzene, phenylaminosulfonylbenzene, diphenylamine, stilbene or phenylaminocarbonylbenzene and may optionally comprise one or more of the following radicals as substituents: SO₃H, COOH, OH, NH₂, NO₂, halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, where Tk¹ does not represent a diphenylamine-derived radical when n is = 0 and where Dk² radical may also represent a radical of the formula A as defined in claim 1.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~Dyes~~ The dyes according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein Tk¹ and/or Tk² in the formulae IIa, IIb, IIIa or IVa represents a radical of the general formula:



where ---- represent the bonds to the azo groups.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Dyes~~ The dyes according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 16~~ claim 14, wherein Napht¹ and/or Napht² represent a bivalent radical of the general formula:



(II)

where R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen, OH, NH_2 or $NHC(O)R^3$, where R^3 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, maleyl or phenyl and at least one of R^1 and R^2 is other than hydrogen[[,]];

---- represent the bonds to the azo groups[[,]];

s and t represent 0 or 1; and

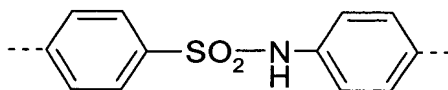
the $s + t$ sum is 1 or 2.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Dyes~~ The dyes according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 17~~ claim 14, wherein either or both of the radicals Dk^1 and Dk^2 represent one of the A1 to A12 radicals defined in claim 7.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~Dyed~~ A dyed leather obtainable by a dyeing process according to ~~any one of claims to 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

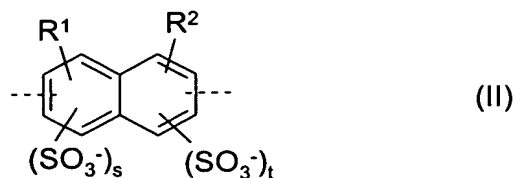
Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~Leather~~ The dyed leather according to Claim 19 for handwear, footwear, automobiles, apparel or furniture.

Claim 21 (New): The dyes according to claim 15, wherein Tk^1 and/or Tk^2 in the formulae IIa, IIb, IIIa or IVa represents a radical of the general formula:



where ---- represent the bonds to the azo groups.

Claim 22 (New): The dyes according to claim 15, wherein $Napht^1$ and/or $Napht^2$ represent a bivalent radical of the general formula:



where R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen, OH, NH_2 or $NHC(O)R^3$, where R^3 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, maleyl or phenyl and at least one of R^1 and R^2 is other than hydrogen[[],];

--- represent the bonds to the azo groups[[],];

s and t represent 0 or 1; and

the s + t sum is 1 or 2.

Claim 23 (New): The dyes according to claim 15, wherein either or both of the radicals Dk^1 and Dk^2 represent one of the A1 to A12 radicals defined in claim 7.